

1870

1912 Dates J-BK

SEDAN

Decisive Battle of the World

Napoleon III was laying hard to retain his throne by waging spectacular wars, remodeling Paris and by other means to keep the French national mind from thinking.

France was jealous of Prussian aggrandizement and several occurrences augmented this feeling. Finally war was declared by the French Emperor on July 15, 1870. It speedily

developed that France was utterly unprepared
and that Germany had plans of campaign arranged.
After an unbroken series of disasters following
the first skirmish, the struggle culminated at
SEDAW : the magnificent strategy of MOLTKE
finally drove the French Army to a common
center. Surrounding them within a
circumference of 16 miles were 200,000
men and 429 pieces of Artillery which
could concentrate their fire wherever Moltke directed
Napoleon III surrendered with 86,000 men. Thus ended
the second Empire of France and thus came into being
the present French Republic.